

Filed for intro on 05/17/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 846  
By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Mr. H. Dean Stone for  
his meritorious service to the state of  
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the members of this General Assembly should honor those exemplary citizens that have made significant contributions to their respective fields and communities; and

WHEREAS, these praiseworthy individuals have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good, and through their hard work and dedication, have pieced together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Dean Stone is one such remarkable public servant, a voice of integrity in the environmental and conservation community, the journalism community, and the greater Maryville community; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Stone is a native of Blount County who began his illustrious journalism career at *The Maryville-Alcoa Daily Times* 50 years ago, writing about sports during two summer breaks while he was a student at the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from college, Dean Stone moved back to Maryville and began working full-time at *The Maryville-Alcoa Times*, where he gave future Tennessee Governor, Lamar Alexander, his first job and became an acquaintance of fellow journalist, Vice-President Al Gore, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure at *The Maryville-Alcoa Times*, the paper has frequently ranked among the top three daily newspapers in the nation and has been the fastest growing daily newspaper in Tennessee for the past three years. It has also won more than 30 first place awards in the University of Tennessee/Tennessee Press Association annual statewide competition, as well as a number of awards from the Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stone received national recognition for his journalism excellence by his coverage of the August, 1959 earthquake at Yellowstone National Park, which killed 28 people. He was on vacation visiting the park when the earthquake hit, making him the only newsman in the park and the first journalist to report it; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Dean Stone shared his journalism expertise and knowledge in a newsroom handbook that he authored, *Newspapers: Making the Most of the News Department*, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stone was recently honored by his alma mater as an Outstanding Graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism, for his numerous professional achievements throughout his distinguished career; and

WHEREAS, an astute businessman, Dean Stone is the owner and operator of Stonecraft, a local view postcard company that he founded in 1954 in an effort to share the unique beauty of the Smoky Mountains with tourists; and

WHEREAS, a "jack of all trades," Mr. Stone is also a gifted photographer who has photographed more than 30 of the major national parks in the United States and has sold his breathtaking photographs on six continents. He is also a longtime member of the Professional Photographers of America; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Mr. Stone answered his patriotic call to duty and rendered admirable service in the 363<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 91<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in North Africa, Italy, and Yugoslavia. For his bravery, he received the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal with three battle stars, the Army Occupation Medal, the Victory Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the Meritorious Unit Citation. He is a member of American Legion Post 13 and is a charter member of VFW Memorial Post 5154; and

WHEREAS, Dean Stone has given unreservedly of himself for the betterment of his community and the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, growing up amidst the Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee, Dean Stone has been a longtime supporter of national parks, especially the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; he is the chairman of the Tennessee Great Smoky Mountains National Park Commission, helped found and served as the president of the Foothills Parkway Association, is a charter member of the Great Smoky Mountain Natural History Association, and is a member of the State of Tennessee Historical Commission; and

WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in preserving the natural beauty of East Tennessee by helping to found the Foothills Land Conservancy, Leadership Blount, and Beautiful Blount, in addition to raising thousands of dollars to protect the Smoky Mountains from encroachment; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his countless conservation efforts, Mr. Stone has been honored with the Blount County Pride of Tennessee Award, received a special award from the

director of the National Park Service, was presented a special award for promotion of tourism by the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, and was awarded the Maryville Church of Christ plaque for Outstanding Community Leadership; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stone personifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a true Tennessee citizen; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded individual, Mr. Stone donates his time and incredible talents to a number of noteworthy causes, including the Blount County Bicentennial Commission, the Pellissippi State Technical Community College Community Advisory Council for Economic and Community Development and is currently heading a committee to prepare a permanent exhibition of historical pictures of the county for the Blount County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, Dean Stone is the quintessential "pillar of the community"; he is listed in Marquis' *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*, *Who's Who in Finance and Industry*, *Who's Who in the Media and Communications*, *Who's Who in the World*, and *Who's Who in America*, and was twice named as Blount County's Outstanding Senior Man of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a natural leader, Mr. Stone established and served with probity as president of an East Tennessee chapter of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, served as chairman of a Blount County Schools System Long Range Planning Committee, vice-chairman of the Maryville Utilities Board, as the president of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, and rendered two terms of astute service as the president of the Tennessee Associated Press News Executives; and

WHEREAS, Dean Stone has been a life member of Sigma Delta Chi Professional Journalism Society, the Maryville-Alcoa Jaycees, and is a 50-year mason of the New Providence Lodge No. 128 F&AM. He has served with acumen on the board of the Sam Houston Memorial Association and is currently on the board of the Blount County Education Foundation and the Alcoa Schools Education Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stone's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his many awards and accomplishments aside, Mr. Stone is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife, the late Agnes Shirley Stone; and

WHEREAS, Dean Stone is extremely grateful for the encouragement given to him by his son and daughter-in-law, Neal Anson and Sandra Kristy of Maryville, and his four grandsons, Derrick Anson, Drew Thomas, Forrest Dean, and Skyler Kristopher. He also receives immeasurable support from his sister, Barbara Purviance and her husband, Jerry, of Maryville; and

WHEREAS, loving the Lord and endeavoring to lead an exemplary Christian life, Mr. Stone faithfully worships the Lord at Maryville First Baptist Church, where he is a deacon and has served as the chairman of the Chilhowee Baptist Association History Committee; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and a friend, Mr. Stone is the epitome of a person totally committed to the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mr. H. Dean Stone upon his meritorious service to the good people of the Maryville community. We thank him for his years of generous efforts to conserve the natural beauty of the Smoky Mountains and to improving the lives of the citizens of our state and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.